

**350 Gulf of Mexico Drive, Apt. 223
Longboat Key, Florida 34228**

January 8, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

It has recently come to my attention that the Department of Justice and Microsoft have reached a settlement in the antitrust case. Microsoft is making a good faith effort to reach an end to this suit, and the terms of the settlement are more than just a slap on the wrist.

Under this settlement Microsoft has agreed to disclose internal interfaces, which were formerly top secret for Microsoft. By doing this, Microsoft will allow competitors to create better software and more openness in the IT industry. An IT company has never agreed to such a drastic disclosure. Sadly, opposition to the settlement exists, and they believe that this new openness by Microsoft is not enough. The opposition to the settlement consists mainly of those with an anti-Microsoft bias. But more than three years in court have damaged Microsoft too much already, it is time for this antitrust case to end.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my views on these matters. Once again, I support this settlement, and look forward to seeing it implemented soon.

Sincerely,


Stephanie Patrick